



FROM A SHATTERED WORLD COMES A NEW SUPERMAN!
WILL HE SAVE EARTH--OR DESTROY IT?

40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 498
AUG.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN
STARRING
IN

ACTION COMICS



THERE HE IS, CLARK--
YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT
ON **SUPERMAN**
WHEN DISASTER STRIKES
IN METROPOLIS!

212 HE
LOOKS LIKE
SUPERMAN--
HE FLIES LIKE
SUPERMAN--
BUT HE
CAN'T BE--

--BECAUSE
**I'M
SUPERMAN!**



ADRIAN GARCIA

We wear Spot-bilt just like O.J.



Spot-bilt

The extra step when
you're on the spot.



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And because Spot-bilt is made better, it's sold better. Only at fine sporting goods stores. And while you're at your dealer, pick up your free copy of Spot-bilt's All-Star Baseball Tips. Or send 50¢ to Hyde Athletic Industries, Inc., 432 Columbia Street, Cambridge, MA 02141.

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE
EXPLODING PLANET **KRYPTON**,
KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON **EARTH**--
WHOSE **YELLOW SUN** AND **LIGHTER GRAVITY**
GAVE HIM FANTASTIC **SUPER-POWERS!**
IN THE CITY OF **METROPOLIS**, HE
POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV
NEWSMAN **CLARK KENT**--
AND BATTLES EVIL
ALL OVER **EARTH**
AND **BEYOND**
AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by
**JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER**



**EARTH--A PLANETARY SPECK AMONG THE
BILLIONS OF STAR-SUNS THAT MAKE UP THE
MILKY WAY GALAXY. ITS SUPER-POWERED
CHAMPION--SUPERMAN!**



**VALERON--A MOTE OF A PLANET AMID
THE MYRIAD OF STELLAR BODIES THAT
FORM THE "SOMBRERO HAT" GALAXY.
ITS HYPER-POWERED GUARDIAN--VARTOX!**

**THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS--UNTIL FATE SUDDENLY SINGLED
OUT ONE OF THE HEROES AND TURNED HIM INTO...**

"THE CATASTROPHIC MAN!"

WRITER -- CARY GATES • PENCILLER -- CURT SWAN • INKER -- FRANK CHIARAMONTE
LETTERER -- BEN ORA • COLORIST -- GENE D'ANGELO • EDITOR -- JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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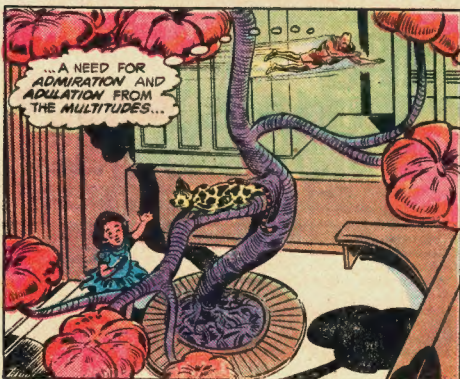
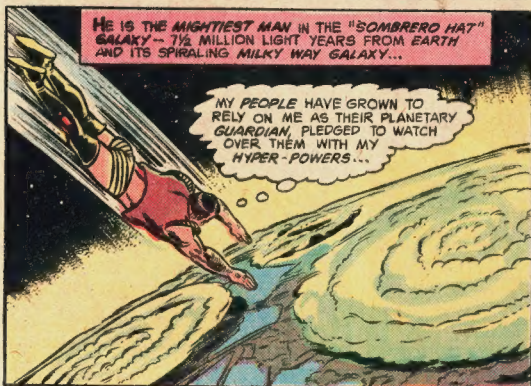
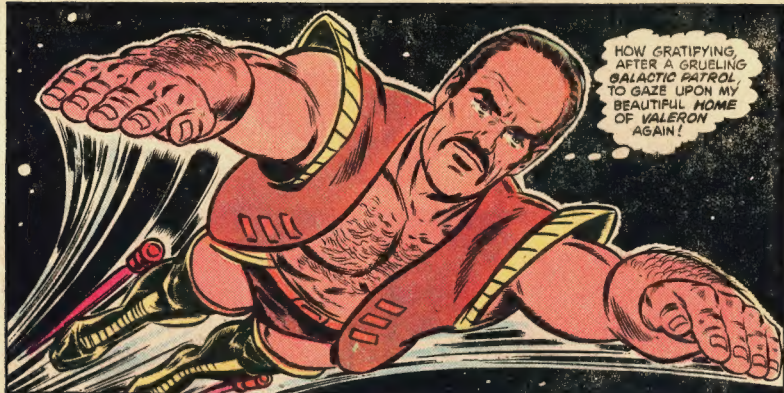
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WHAT ON VALERON--?!

MY HYPER-SENSES
DETECT A VIOLENT VIBRATORY
FLUX SPREADING RAPIDLY
ACROSS THE PLANET!

THERE IS NOTHING
I CAN DO...

... TO PREVENT...



METROPOLIS IS THE CITY--EARTH
IS THE PLANET...

OOOPS!
SORRY ABOUT
THAT, MISS LANG!

HERE--THIS
CANDY APPLE
IS ON ME!

VERY SWEET
OF YOU, LUV.

AHH, THERE
YOU ARE,
LANA LANG!

I WAS PAGING FOR
YOU! I LUCKED INTO A PAIR OF
BOX SEATS FOR TONIGHT'S
METEORS GAME... AND THOUGHT
OF YOU! YOU WILL GO, OF
COURSE...

WELL,
ROONEY,
IT'S LIKE
THIS--

--I ALREADY SET
TONIGHT ASIDE TO
DO MY LAUNDRY...
I'M REAL
ANXIOUS TO TRY
OUT A NEW
BRAND OF
SPRAY
STARCH!

BUT IT WAS
? CHOMP?
SWEET OF
YOU TO THINK
OF ME...

...MAYBE ONE OF
THESE DAYS I'LL
START THINKING OF
YOU!

SHEEEESH!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
HEARD
THAT!

A DISAPPROVING VOICE--FROM NONE OTHER
THAN STEVE LOMBARD, BROADCASTER OF
SPORTS AND EYECASER OF WOMEN...

THERE ISN'T A
SINGLE FEMALE IN
GALAXY COMMUNI-
CATIONS WHO
WOULD'VE
TURNED DOWN
ITS MILLIONAIRE
STOCKHOLDER,
RODNEY
SMATHERS--

--EXCEPT MAYBE
YOUR FRIEND
LOIS! BUT AT
LEAST SHE
SEEMS TO HAVE
A THING
GOING WITH
SUPERMAN!

WHAT'S
YOUR EXCUSE,
LANA?

KEEP
OUR CITY
CLEAN

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING

*Hey Kids, have as much fun
in Fruit Stripe Land as you do
chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.*

Find all the fun things about Fruit Stripe Gum.

There's a whole herd of
fun flavors in every pack.

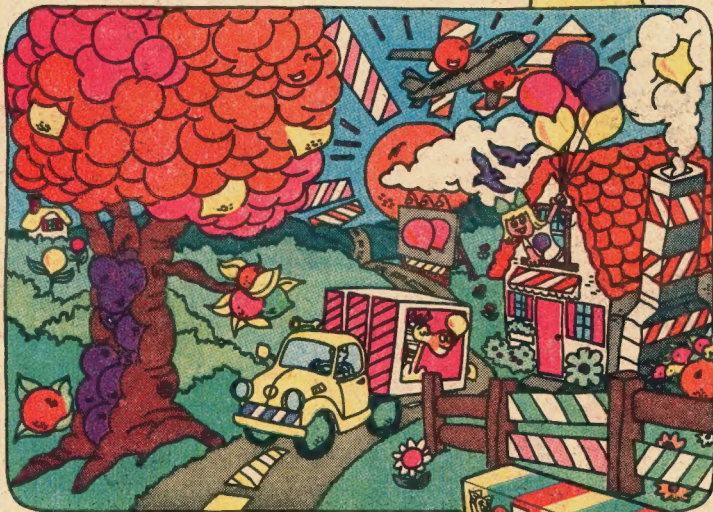
Find:	Check:
3 oranges	_____
4 cherries	_____
3 lemons	_____
4 limes	_____
10 grapes	_____

Every stick has wild,
colorful fruity stripes.

Find:	Check:
2 sticks of lime	_____
1 stick of grape	_____
3 sticks of orange	_____
2 sticks of lemon	_____
4 sticks of cherry	_____
3 sticks of bubble gum	_____

You can blow
lots of
different big,
juicy, fun bubbles.

Find:	Check:
3 grape bubbles	_____
2 cherry bubbles	_____
5 lemon bubbles	_____
2 bubble gum bubbles	_____



Regular and Bubble Gum

Fruit Stripe Gum
means
Fruit Stripe Fun



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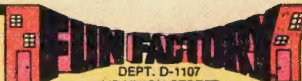


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Just drop or squeeze one of
these "snappers" for an extra
L-O-U-D explosion!
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—LOUDEST BANG!

Fires real blanks! Extra loud explosion! 2" long. Barrel opens to
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laughs.
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CAST**

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real looking
white
plaster
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sympathy,
look like a
sports hero or be excused from
unpleasant tasks. This phony
cast comes complete with arm
sling. #755 \$2.95



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Wind it up. Wear it on your
finger like a ring & give your
friends the S-H-O-C-K of their
life! \$1.00

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**MONEY
MAKER**
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piece of paper
into the machine
turn the knob.
PRESTO... from the
other side comes a pre-
viously hidden REAL
DOLLAR BILL! Insert a
dollar bill & see it
change to a \$5 or \$10!
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FOR \$4.00**

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it!!! The lather is a harmless
black substance.

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Just light
one and thick
clouds rise to the ceiling.
Watch them fill the room! Used
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MESS
SOAP #695**
\$1.00
Just a few drops on your skin...
it works like you're really bleed-
ing. Absolutely safe. Large tube.

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TODAY!**

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Great for watching sports, girls,
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An amazing illusion! Apparently
see thru bones, thru skin, thru
clothes, etc. Thrill and embar-
rass your friends.
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BOOK
SAFE**
Looks like
real book but
opens to re-
veal combination lock safe.
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This bulb, when held in hand,
lights whenever desired. A
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unless he knows the secret.
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VOICE!**
Trick family
and friends
alike. Appear
to throw your
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desks, under
beds, out of pets, from behind
doors. FREE with NEW Pro-
fessional Secrets' Guidebook.
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shoots potato pellets as far as
50 feet. More than 300 shots
from a single potato. Absolutely
harmless. #300 \$1.50

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MASK #624**
\$3.00

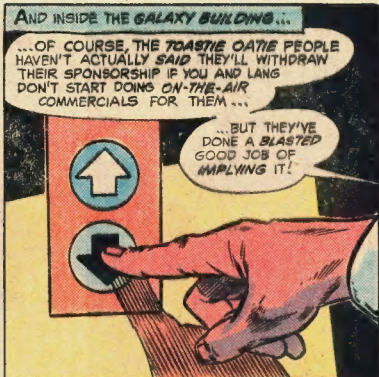
**ARMY
MEDALS #906**
\$1.00



IF YOU MUST KNOW, STEVE... I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED RODNEY SMATHERS AN ABSOLUTE BORE--

--WHICH GIVES THE TWO OF YOU A LOT IN COMMON!

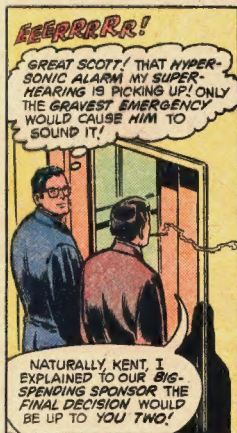
SIGH! WHAT A WASTE....!



AND INSIDE THE GALAXY BUILDING...

...OF COURSE, THE TOASTIE OATIE PEOPLE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SAID THEY'LL WITHDRAW THEIR SPONSORSHIP IF YOU AND LANG DON'T START DOING ON-THE-AIR COMMERCIALS FOR THEM...

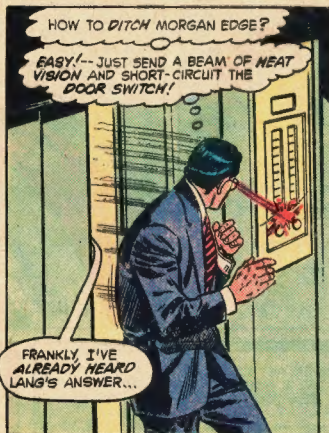
...BUT THEY'VE DONE A BLASTED GOOD JOB OF IMPLYING IT!



FEERRRR!

GREAT SCOTT! THAT HYPER-SONIC ALARM MY SUPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP! ONLY THE GRAVEST EMERGENCY WOULD CAUSE HIM TO SOUND IT!

NATURALLY, KENT, I EXPLAINED TO OUR BIG-SPENDING SPONSOR THE FINAL DECISION WOULD BE UP TO YOU TWO!



HOW TO DITCH MORGAN EDGE?

EASY!-- JUST SEND A BEAM OF HEAT VISION AND SHORT-CIRCUIT THE DOOR SWITCH!

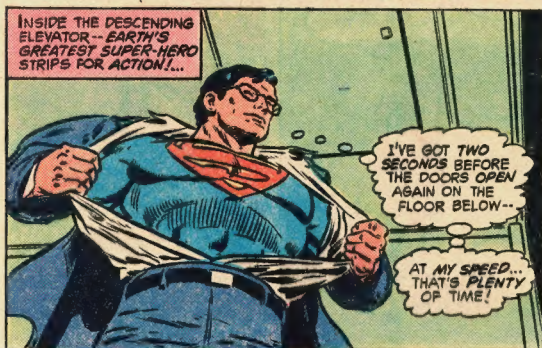
FRANKLY, I'VE ALREADY HEARD LANG'S ANSWER...



...BUT I'M CONFIDENT YOU WILL BE MORE--

--REASONABLE...

CHUNK

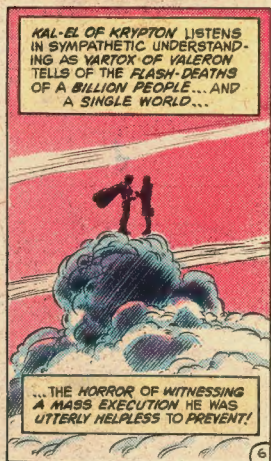
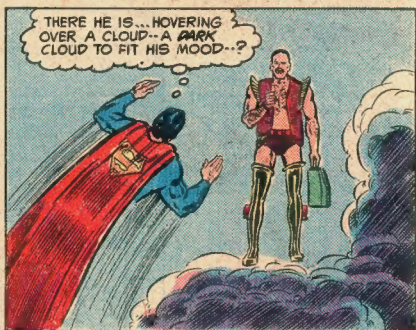


INSIDE THE DESCENDING ELEVATOR-- EARTH'S GREATEST SUPER-HERO STRIPS FOR ACTION!...

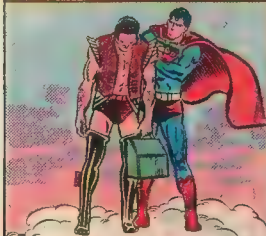
I'VE GOT TWO SECONDS BEFORE THE DOORS OPEN AGAIN ON THE FLOOR BELOW--

AT MY SPEED... THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME!





THOUGH THE MAN OF STEEL STILL
ENDURES THE SCARS OF IMMENSUR-
ABLE GRIEF FROM LOSING HIS
OWN HOME WORLD WHEN HE WAS
A MERE INFANT...



...HE CANNOT BEGIN TO COMPREHEND
THE WEIGHT OF THE PAIN AND
AGONY THAT MUST NOW WEIGH
UPON HIS COMRADE'S MIGHTY
SHOULDERS!

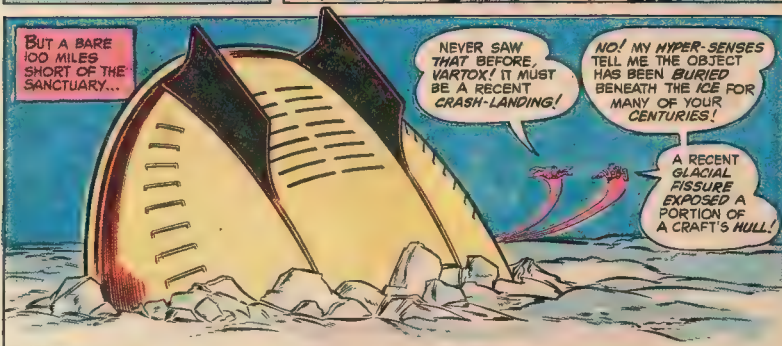
THEN, AT A SIGNAL FROM SUPERMAN, THE TWO HEROES FLY
SIDE BY SIDE...



WE ARE PASSING OVER
ARCTIC REGIONS...
TOWARD YOUR PLANET'S
NORTH MAGNETIC POLE...

--AND MY HIDDEN
FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE--
WHERE WE CAN PLAN
YOUR--ER-- FUTURE!

BUT A BARE
100 MILES
SHORT OF THE
SANCTUARY...



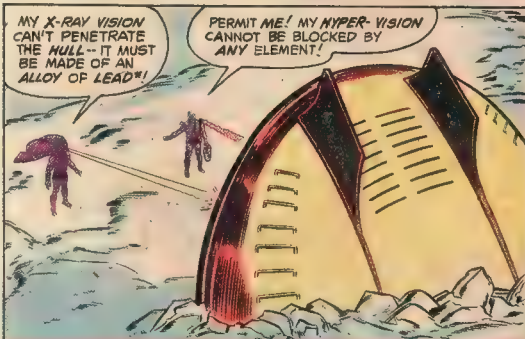
NEVER SAW
THAT BEFORE,
VARTOX! IT MUST
BE A RECENT
CRASH-LANDING!

NO! MY HYPER-SENSES
TELL ME THE OBJECT
HAS BEEN BURIED
BENEATH THE ICE FOR
MANY OF YOUR
CENTURIES!

A RECENT
GLACIAL
FISSURE
EXPOSED A
PORTION OF
A CRAFT'S HULL!

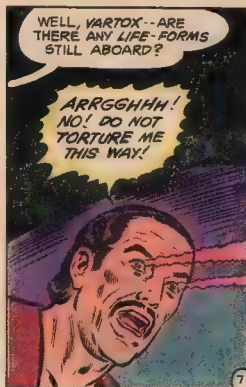
MY X-RAY VISION
CAN'T PENETRATE
THE HULL-- IT MUST
BE MADE OF AN
ALLOY OF LEAD*

PERMIT ME! MY HYPER- VISION
CANNOT BE BLOCKED BY
ANY ELEMENT!



WELL, VARTOX-- ARE
THERE ANY LIFE-FORMS
STILL ABOARD?

ARRGGHHH!
NO! DO NOT
TORTURE ME
THIS WAY!



*LEAD is the only substance SUPERMAN'S VISION cannot
penetrate! --JULIE

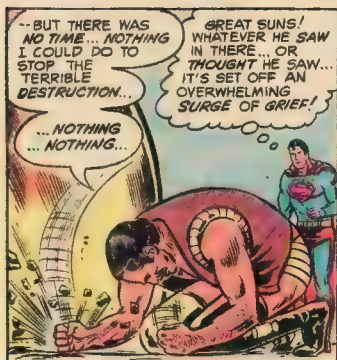


BLACKGUARD--
YOU STOOD BY AND
WATCHED YOUR
FELLOW BEINGS
PERISH!

MONSTER!--
WE BELIEVED YOU
WERE OUR HERO!

TRAITOR!--
WE IDOLIZED
YOU AND YOU
RAILED US!

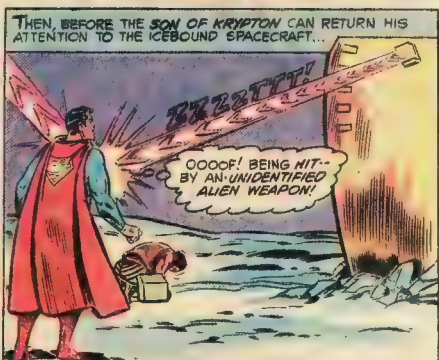
NO! YOU
HAVE IT ALL
WRONG! I
LOVED YOU
ALL-- I WOULD
HAVE SAVED
YOU--



-- BUT THERE WAS
NO TIME... NOTHING
I COULD DO TO
STOP THE
TERRIBLE
DESTRUCTION...

... NOTHING
... NOTHING...

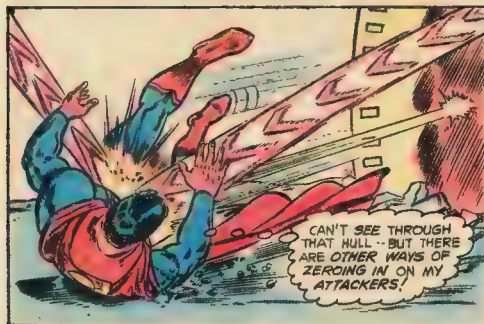
GREAT SUNS!
WHATEVER HE SAW
IN THERE... OR
THOUGHT HE SAW...
IT'S SET OFF AN
OVERWHELMING
SURGE OF GRIEF!



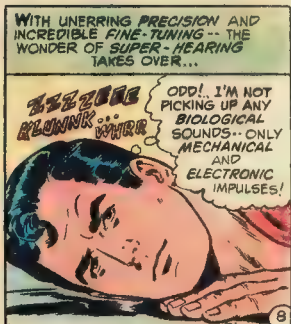
THEN, BEFORE THE SON OF KRYPTON CAN RETURN HIS
ATTENTION TO THE ICEBOUND SPACECRAFT...

ZZZZTTT!

OOOOO! BEING HIT--
BY AN UNIDENTIFIED
ALIEN WEAPON!



CAN'T SEE THROUGH
THAT HULL-- BUT THERE
ARE OTHER WAYS OF
ZEROING IN ON MY
ATTACKERS!



WITH UNERRING PRECISION AND
INCREDIBLE FINE-TUNING-- THE
WONDER OF SUPER-HEARING
TAKES OVER...

ZZZZ
BLONK... WHRR

ODD! I'M NOT
PICKING UP ANY
BIOLOGICAL
SOUNDS-- ONLY
MECHANICAL
AND
ELECTRONIC
IMPULSES!

Two Big Hits Hostess Cakes



Hostess™ makes a great double play! First there's delicious golden sponge cake with fluffy creamed filling! That's Twinkies® Cakes for you. Then there's moist devil's food cakes topped with chocolaty icing. That's Hostess Cup Cakes. What a winning combination!

Free Baseball Cards

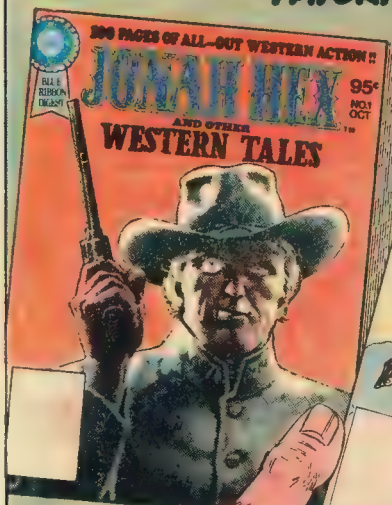
150 major league baseball cards with lots of player facts. Find 3 full-color cards printed on specially marked boxes of Twinkies Cakes, Cup Cakes, Suzy Q's® and other Hostess snacks.

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TRY THESE FOR SIZE!

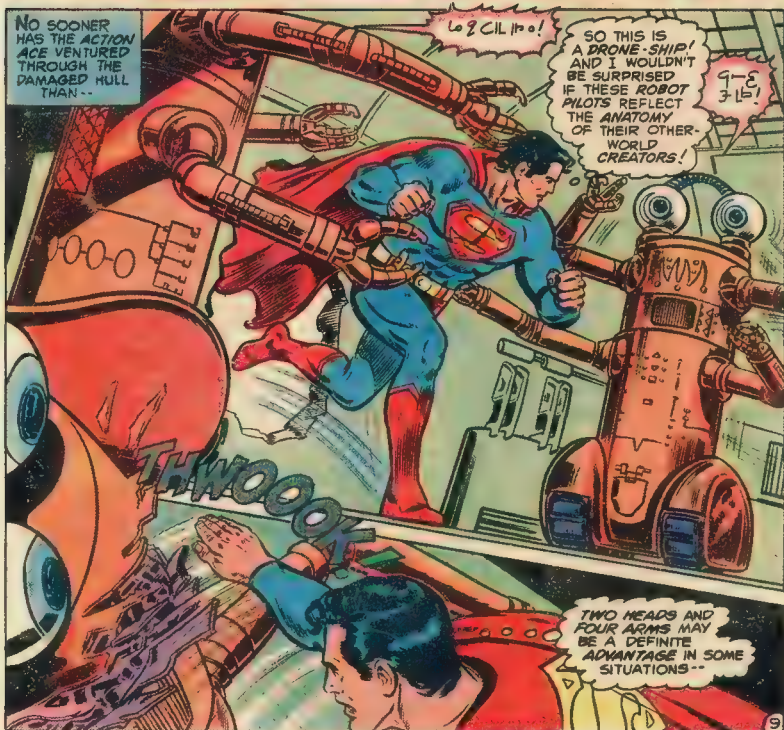
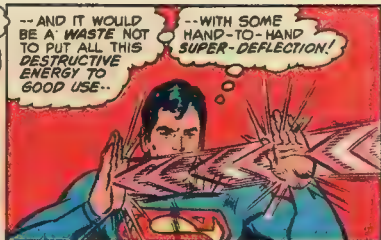
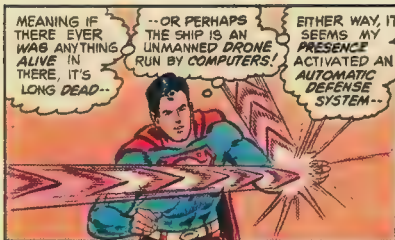
100 PAGES OF YOUR
FAVORITE COMICS
FROM

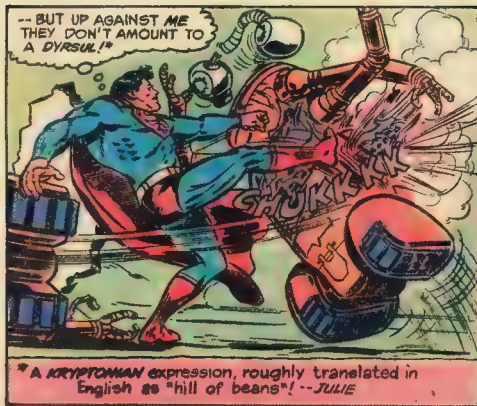


TWO NEW DIGEST-SIZE COMICS:

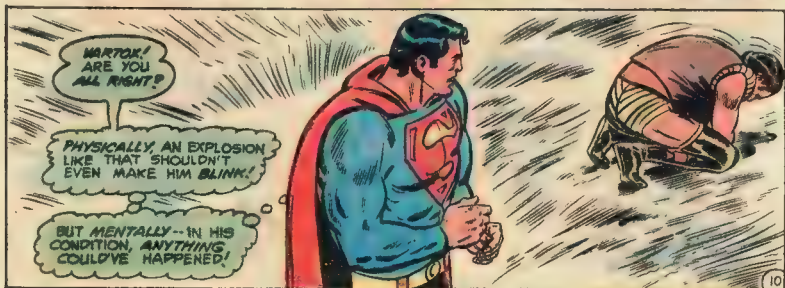
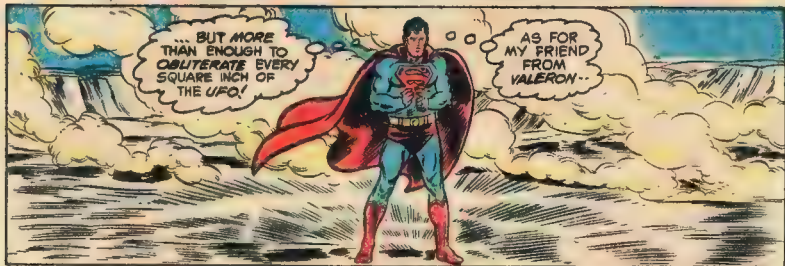
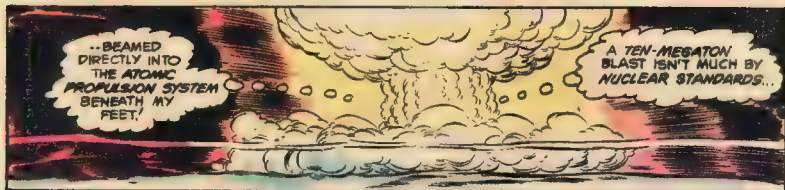
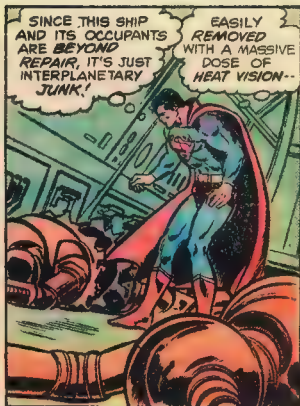
SUPERMAN-JONAH HEX

ON SALE JUNE 7th
AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!





* A KRYPTONIAN expression, roughly translated in English as "hill of beans"! --JULIE



Pete Rose

BATTING PRACTICE

©1979 TURCO MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HEY PETE!
WHAT'S THE
SECRET?
HOW DID YOU
GET TO BE
SUCH A
GREAT BATTER?

PRACTICE BOBBY.
PRACTICE IS THE
KEY TO MY
SUCCESS IN
BASEBALL.



AND NOW YOU
CAN LEARN TO BE
A WINNER WITH
PETE ROSE
BATTING
PRACTICE!



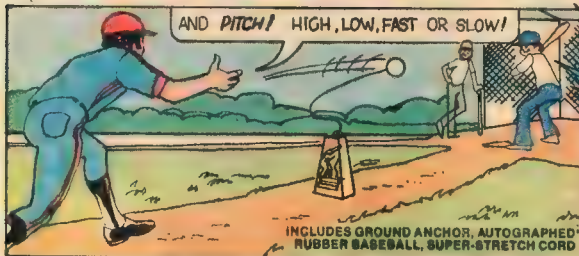
JUST TWIST
IT IN...



PULL THE ADJUSTABLE
SUPER-STRETCH CORD...



AND PITCH! HIGH, LOW, FAST OR SLOW!



INCLUDES GROUND ANCHOR, AUTOGRAPHED
RUBBER BASEBALL, SUPER-STRETCH CORD

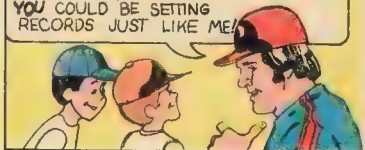


BASE HIT!



AND NO MORE LOST BALLS!

SEE BOBBY, WITH ENOUGH PRACTICE
YOU COULD BE SETTING
RECORDS JUST LIKE ME!



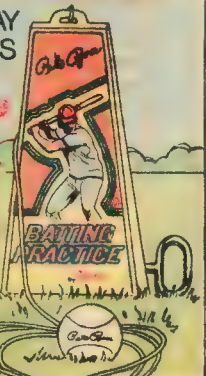
LEARN TO PLAY
LIKE THE PROS
WITH

Pete Rose
BATTING
PRACTICE

Look for it in the toy
and sporting goods
section of your
favorite store.

Turco

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GET INTO THE WAR!

5

GUT-SEARING, CRACKLING COMBAT STORIES:

- ★ "The Viking Commando"
- ★ "Brother with Wings"
- ★ "Funeral March for a Guerrilla Fighter"
- ★ "Cardboard Marine"
- ★ "To Honor the Hero"

1ST FIGHTING ISSUE
THE GIANT BATTLE BOOK



ALL-OUT WAR



THE TRIPLE-LENGTH, TRIPLE-ACTION SUPER BATTLE BOOK!

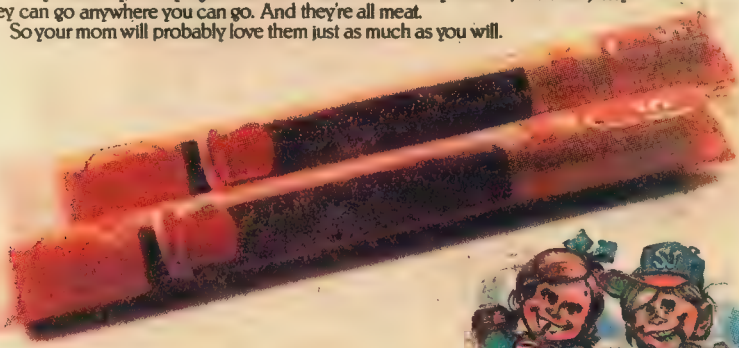
1ST FIGHTING ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 7th!



SO REAL, YOU CAN
SMELL THE STENCH
OF COMBAT... HEAR
THE HOWL OF
HOWITZERS...
TASTE THE GORE
AND SOME OF
BATTLE!

PICK UP STICKS.

If your mom's been bugging you about sweet snacks, pick up Slim Jim® meat snacks at your neighborhood convenience store. Or ask her to pick them up, next time she's at the supermarket. They're chewy, satisfying snacks that come in six hearty flavors plus beef jerky. They can go anywhere you can go. And they're all meat. So your mom will probably love them just as much as you will.



slim jim



Remember How Many Times You Felt Left Out

Because You Were **BROKE!**

Places the gang was going and you weren't included. They all had money for movies, games, hamburgers and soft drinks . . . all of them except you.



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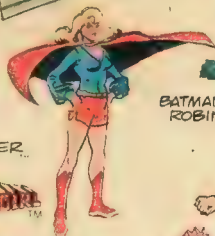
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Age _____ Date of Birth _____

☐ Male ☐ Female

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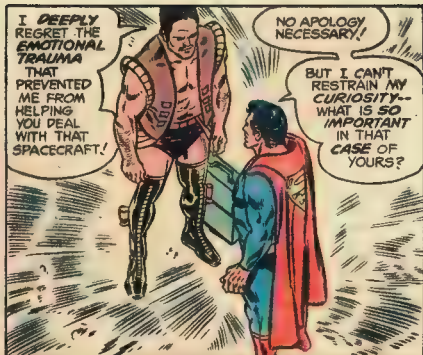
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SORRY, SUPERMAN...
I DID NOT MEAN
TO ALARM YOU!
I WAS HUDDLING
OVER MY
TRAVELING
CASE TO
PROTECT IT
FROM THE
FORCE OF
THE BLAST!



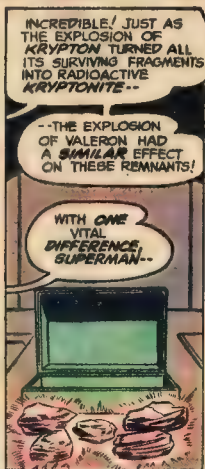
I DEEPLY
REGRET THE
EMOTIONAL
TRAUMA
THAT
PREVENTED
ME FROM
HELPING
YOU DEAL
WITH THAT
SPACECRAFT!

NO APOLOGY
NECESSARY!!

BUT I CAN'T
RESTRAIN MY
CURIOSITY--
WHAT IS SO
IMPORTANT
IN THAT
CASE OF
YOURS?



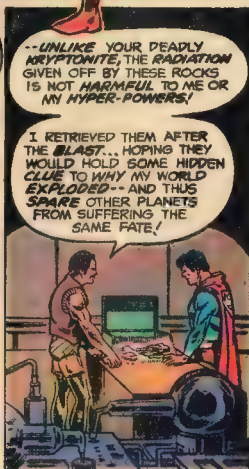
ROCKS... ALL
THAT REMAIN
OF MY
NATIVE
WORLD--
ROCKS THAT
MUST BE
PRESERVED
AT ALL
COSTS!



INCREDIBLE! JUST AS
THE EXPLOSION OF
KRYPTON TURNED ALL
ITS SURVIVING FRAGMENTS
INTO RADIOACTIVE
KRYPTONITE--

--THE EXPLOSION
OF VALERON HAD
A SIMILAR EFFECT
ON THESE REMNANTS!

WITH ONE
VITAL
DIFFERENCE
SUPERMAN--



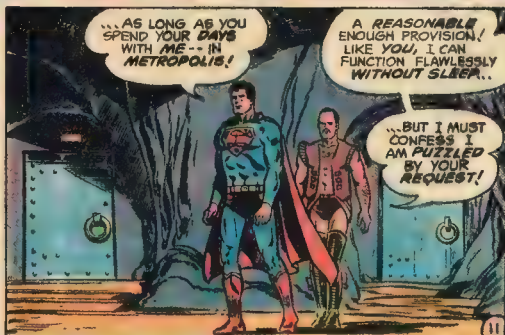
--UNLIKE YOUR DEADLY
KRYPTONITE, THE RADIATION
GIVEN OFF BY THESE ROCKS
IS NOT HARMFUL TO ME OR
MY HYPER-POWERS!

I RETRIEVED THEM AFTER
THE BLAST... HOPING THEY
WOULD HOLD SOME HIDDEN
CLUE TO WHY MY WORLD
EXPLODED-- AND THUS
SPARE OTHER PLANETS
FROM SUFFERING THE
SAME FATE!



GOOD THINKING!
THE ENTIRE SUPER-
SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT
IN MY FORTRESS
IS AT YOUR
DISPOSAL...

...ON ONE
CONDITION!
YOU CAN SPEND
YOUR NIGHTS
HERE, ANALYZING
THOSE
SAMPLES...



...AS LONG AS YOU
SPEND YOUR DAYS
WITH ME-- IN
METROPOLIS!

A REASONABLE
ENOUGH PROVISION!
LIKE YOU, I CAN
FUNCTION FLAWLESSLY
WITHOUT SLEEP..

...BUT I MUST
CONFESS I
AM PUZZLED
BY YOUR
REQUEST!

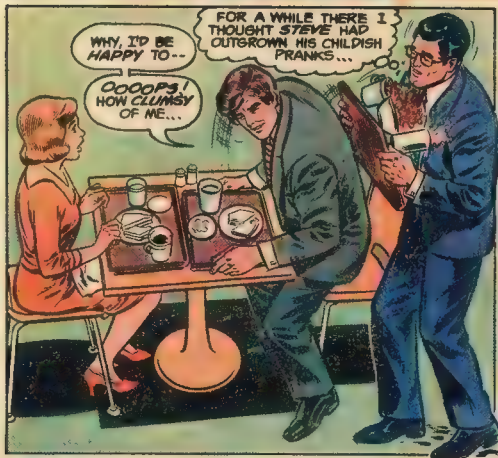
METROPOLIS IS THE CITY
--THE GALAXY BUILDING
IS THE SETTING...

I'M HUNGRY
AS A HORSE
--BUT CAN
ONLY EAT
LIKE A BIRD!
MUSTN'T
LET THE
LOMBARD
WAISTLINE
GET OUT
OF SHAPE,
YOU KNOW!

TO BE MORE SPECIFIC --THE
GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSARY AT LUNCHTIME...

FINE, STEVE...
THEN YOU CAN
GET UP AND
GIVE YOUR
SEAT TO
CLARK!

CLARK-IE?



WHY, I'D BE
HAPPY TO--

OOOOOPS!
HOW CLUMSY
OF ME...

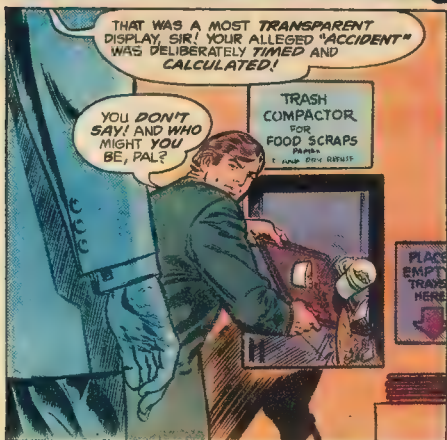
FOR A WHILE THERE I
THOUGHT STEVE HAD
OUTGROWN HIS CHILDISH
FRANKS...



...OF
MAKING
A FOOL
OF ME IN
PUBLIC!

REALLY SORRY
ABOUT THAT, CLARKIE!
TELL YOU WHAT--
SEND ME THE
CLEANING BILL AND
I'LL SPLIT IT WITH
YOU!

STEVE
LOMBARD
...YOU
ARE
BEYOND
BELIEF!



THAT WAS A MOST TRANSPARENT
DISPLAY, SIR! YOUR ALLEGED "ACCIDENT"
WAS DELIBERATELY TIMED AND
CALCULATED!

YOU DON'T
SAY! AND WHO
MIGHT YOU
BE, PAL?

TRASH
COMPACTOR
FOR
FOOD SCRAPS
PAPER
& UNPAID GARY DEWITT

PLACE
EMPTY
TRAYS
HERE



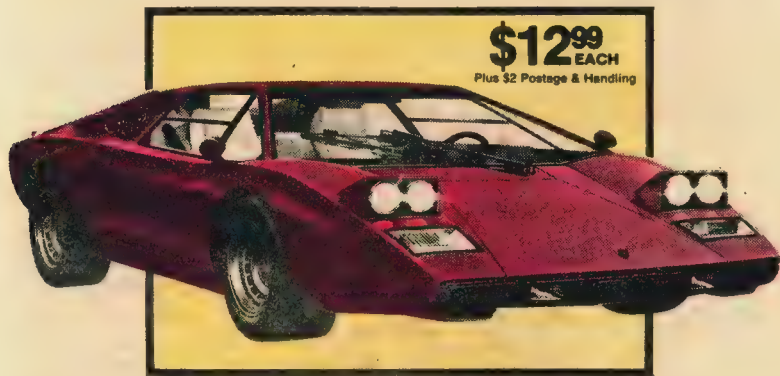
MY BADGE
NUMBER IS
P5684... IN
CASE YOU WISH
TO REGISTER
A COMPLAINT
WITH THE
GALAXY
SECURITY
SQUAD!

GLUBBBBB!

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Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Signature _____

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!

FOR YEARS, THE **MAN OF STEEL**
HAS ATTEMPTED TO RESTORE
THE **BOTTLE-CITY OF KANDOR**
TO ITS NORMAL
SIZE!

BUT WILL
THE **CURE**
PROVE MORE
DEADLY
THAN THE
CURSE?

**40TH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE ON SALE
MAY 24th!**

PLEASE DO
NOT REVEAL THE
SENSES-SHATTERING
SHOCK
ENDING!

SUPERMAN--
STOP!
YOUR EXPERIMENTAL
MAY HAVE DESTROYED
THE BOTTLE-CITY!

TOO LATE,
SUPERGIRL!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER--
KANDOR MUST BE
ENLARGED

A TALE SO
GIGANTIC IT REQUIRED
EXTRA PAGES
TO DO IT JUSTICE!



THE NEXT MOMENT, ALL HEADS TURN
AND THE COMMISSARY SWIFTLY GROWS
STARKLY SILENT...

I'VE GOT A COMPLAINT, ALL
RIGHT-- AND I'M GONNA
REGISTER IT ACROSS
YOUR FACE!

I WOULD
STRONGLY
ADVISE
AGAINST
A PHYSICAL
ASSAULT,
SIR!

YEAH?
WELL HERE'S
WHAT I THINK
OF YOUR--

MMMEFF!

SPLAAAAAT

LOOK-- THE
DISPOSAL UNIT
JUST BACKED UP
ALL OVER LOMBARD!

SOMETHING
MUST'VE
CLOGGED
THE WORKS!

AND THE TIMING
COULDN'T HAVE
BEEN BETTER!
THE GREAT STEVERINO
COULD SURE USE
A LITTLE
HUMILITY!

HEAR,
HEAR!

AN
ADMIRABLY
SMOOTH
DEMONSTRATION
OF INVISIBLE
HYPER-
LEVITATION...

... ESPECIALLY
CONSIDERING
VARTOX
IS STILL NEW AT
THIS-- NEVER HAVING
ANY NEED FOR A
SECRET IDENTITY
ON VALERON!

COAXING
HIM TO WEAR
CIVILIAN
CLOTHES AND
TAKE A DAY
JOB AS A
TEMPORARY
SECURITY
OFFICER
WASN'T
EASY...

... BUT SINCE HE LOST
HIS OWN PEOPLE, I
KNEW IT WAS VITAL
FOR HIS MENTAL
REHABILITATION TO
DEAL WITH OTHER
HUMAN BEINGS
AGAIN!

NOT MANY MEN
IN THIS BUILDING
COULD STAND UP
TO A 200-POUND
JOCK AND LOOK
BLASE AT THE
SAME TIME--

--BUT I GET THE
FEELING YOU'RE NOT
LIKE OTHER MEN,
MR. P5684.

FORGET ABOUT THE
BADGE NUMBER, MISS...
MY NAME IS... VERNON
O'VALERON! YOU CAN
CALL ME VERN--

MY, WHAT AN
INTRIGUING
NAME! YOU
MUST CALL
ME LANA!

AS THE ACTION ACE WATCHES HIS FELLOW HERO LEAVE WITH THE BEAUTIFUL NEWSWOMAN...

HMMM! LANA HASN'T SHOWN SUCH INTEREST IN ANYONE SINCE I REBUFFED HER AS SUPERMAN!

THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT I'D HATE TO SEE EITHER OF THEM GET HURT!

5:59 P.M., THE 20TH FLOOR...

ON THE AIR

STUDIO 8

I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO LOOK, JOSH! WE TRIED HER DRESSING ROOM... HER OFFICE... WE EVEN PAGED HER ON THE P.A. SYSTEM!

THIRTY SECONDS TO AIR-TIME...

FOR ONCE, CLARK KENT IS HERE EARLY-- AND HIS CO-ANCHOR DOES A NO-SHOW! CLARK-- YOU GO SOLO TONIGHT!

6 O'CLOCK REPORT

TWO SECONDS...

GOOD EVENING... I'M CLARK KENT AT THE CHANNEL 8 NEWS DESK--

MR. COYLE... SHE'S HERE!

--AND I'M LANA LANG WITH THE SIX O'CLOCK REPORT!

AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS TONIGHT--

K
T

ONE HOUR AND THIRTEEN MINUTES LATER...

POOR JOSH! I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO GIVE BIRTH TO ANOTHER ULCER!

ER... WHERE WERE YOU ALL AFTERNOON, ANYWAY?

AHEM! I'D RATHER NOT--

THERE YOU ARE, LOVELY LANA...

SHALL WE PROCEED TO OUR DINNER RESERVATION?

I'M FAMISHED, VERN... AND I'M ALL YOURS!

~PHEW!~ LANA GOING LOVESICK WAS BAD ENOUGH--

--BUT VARTOX?? HASN'T HE ENOUGH PROBLEMS--?

NEXT MOMENT...

BROOM

WHAT
IN THE
WORLD-?

ALL EYES SHOOT UP AT THE MASSIVE FACE OF THE TOWERING
GALAXY BUILDING!

IT'S THE
SIXTH FLOOR--
THE AUTOMATED
SUB-STATION WITH
THE RESERVE
GENERATORS!

LOOK OUT
FOR FALLING
SHARDS OF
GLASS!

AND IF YOU COULD PEEK INTO A
NEARBY ALLEY AT THAT INSTANT--

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
GRAVITY, AIR RESISTANCE,
AND THE LAW OF FALLING
BODIES, I CALCULATE
THERE ARE 1.3 SECONDS
BEFORE THE SHOWER
OF GLASS FRAGMENTS
REACHES LANA AND
THE OTHERS!

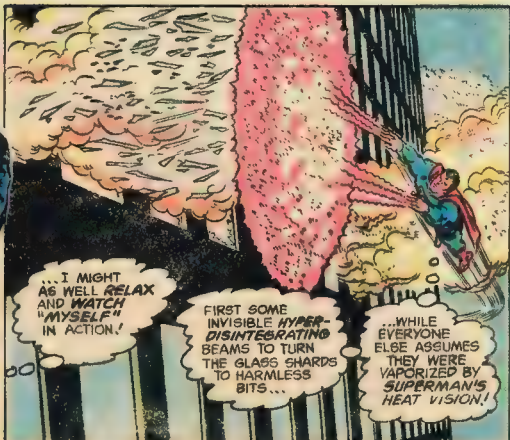
LOOK,
CLARK-- IT'S
SUPERMAN--
COMING TO
THE
RESCUE!

VARTOX IS
CERTAINLY
FULL OF
SURPRISES!
HE SWITCHED
TO "SUPERMAN"
SO I WOULDN'T
HAVE TO...



...NOT REALIZING I COULD VAPORIZE THE GLASS FROM HERE WITHOUT RESORTING TO A COSTUME CHANGE!

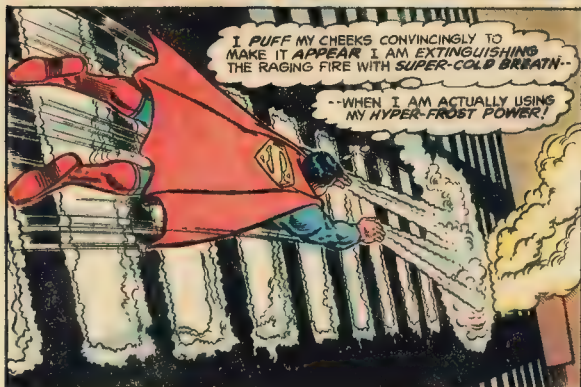
BUT SINCE HE'S ALREADY GONE TO THE TROUBLE...



... I MIGHT AS WELL RELAX AND WATCH "MYSELF" IN ACTION!

FIRST SOME INVISIBLE HYPER-DISINTEGRATING BEAMS TO TURN THE GLASS SHARDS TO HARMLESS BITS...

...WHILE EVERYONE ELSE ASSUMES THEY WERE VAPORIZED BY SUPERMAN'S HEAT VISION!



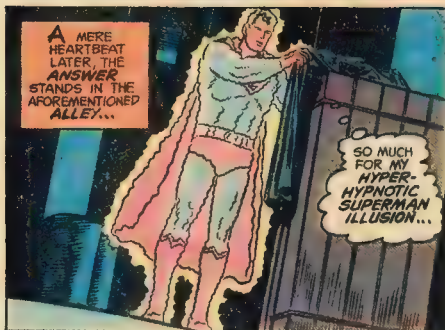
I PUFF MY CHEEKS CONVINCINGLY TO MAKE IT APPEAR I AM EXTINGUISHING THE RAGING FIRE WITH SUPER-COLD BREATH--

--WHEN I AM ACTUALLY USING MY HYPER-FROST POWER!



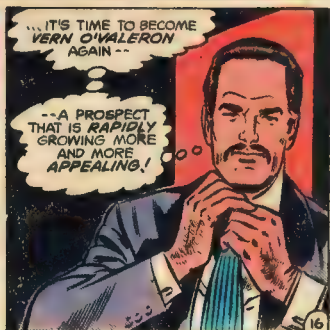
GOSH, LANA, I'M GETTING GOOSE BUMPS! IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M SEEING THE MAN OF STEEL FOR THE FIRST TIME!

WHERE COULD VERN HAVE GONE?



A MERE HEARTBEAT LATER, THE ANSWER STANDS IN THE AFOREMENTIONED ALLEY...

SO MUCH FOR MY HYPER-HYPNOTIC SUPERMAN ILLUSION...



...IT'S TIME TO BECOME VERN O'VALERON AGAIN--

--A PROSPECT THAT IS RAPIDLY GROWING MORE AND MORE APPEALING!

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DID YOU
DISAPPEAR
TO--?

I AM A SECURITY
OFFICER, REMEMBER...
SO I LEFT TO PHONE
IN A GENERAL ALERT!

IT WAS A POWER
OVERLOAD! LUCKILY,
THE FLOOR WAS
DESERTED!

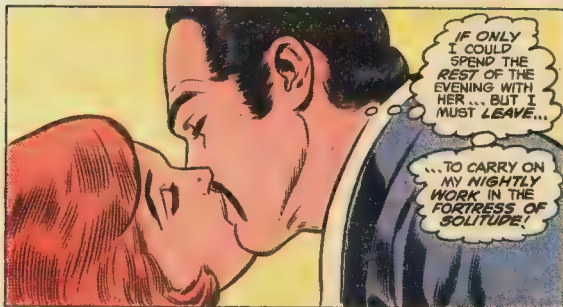
MY CUE
TO EXIT...



...I DON'T BELIEVE
I WANT TO WATCH
THIS!

VERN, LUV...
THESE FEW
HEAVENLY
HOURS
WE'VE
SPENT
TOGETHER...

I KNOW,
LANA...
AND I
FEEL THE
SAME
ABOUT
YOU...



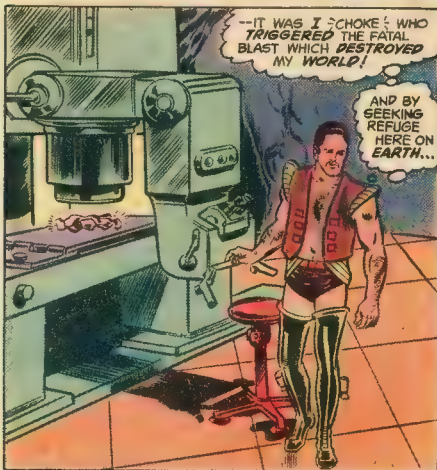
IF ONLY
I COULD
SPEND THE
REST OF THE
EVENING WITH
HER... BUT I
MUST LEAVE...

...TO CARRY ON
MY NIGHTLY
WORK IN THE
FORTRESS OF
SOLITUDE!

SEVERAL PAINSTAKING
HOURS OF SCIENTIFIC
ANALYSIS LATER...

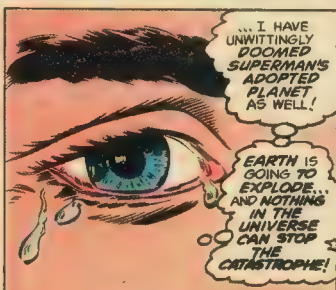
BY THE DADRA
MOONS! I CAN
HARDLY BELIEVE
FATE COULD
BE SO
MURDEROUSLY
CRUEL...

BUT I
HAVE
POSITIVE
PROOF...



--IT WAS I CHOKO WHO
TRIGGERED THE FATAL
BLAST WHICH DESTROYED
MY WORLD!

AND BY
SEEKING REFUGE
HERE ON
EARTH...



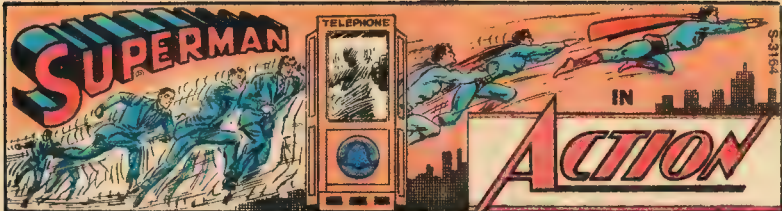
... I HAVE
UNWITTINGLY
DOOMED
SUPERMAN'S
ADOPTED
PLANET
AS WELL!

EARTH IS
GOING TO
EXPLODE...
AND NOTHING
IN THE
UNIVERSE
CAN STOP
THE
CATASTROPHE!

CAN VARTOX BE RIGHT? HOW HAS
HE DOOMED EARTH? AND WILL
SUPERMAN BE ABLE TO SAVE IT?
ALL ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

**"AS THE WORLD TURNS...
FOR THE LAST TIME!"**

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Dear Editor:

My first reaction upon seeing the cover of *ACTION* #493 was a deceptive thought. I immediately concluded that *Superman* was once more in the hands of his TV nemesis, Blackrock. Fortunately, I was wrong. "The Metropolis-UFO Connection" was a great issue for the following reasons:

—Single-issue villain stories are a nice breather from multiple-issue stories. I had forgotten how pleasant it was to see *Superman* scripts so spontaneous and action-packed, and not dragged out into two-or three-plot parts.

—Alien-overthrow stories are always ecstatically enjoyable to me. I know readers will complain that this is a reshaped plot, but leave it to Cary Bates to come up with fascinating gimmicks to give the story originality: i.e., the dimensional projector, the data drone, etc.

—It was humorously ironic that *Supes* was saved by Jimmy Olsen's signal-watch.

—The biggest treat of all was to see Clark working for the *Daily Planet* again, and to know that he will do so again next ish. It was right, considering Clark still works for the *Planet* in the *Superman* movie.

Alan Gary Giroux
7809 W. Weldon
Phoenix, AZ 85033

And Clark will be dividing his time between TV and the *Planet* regularly for some time to come.—ENB

Dear Cary:

"Lois, you're beautiful!"

"Yes, I know. Kiss me, my fool."

"Whoa, you two. Hold it. This comic is read by eight-year-olds, y'know. They can't take that stuff."

And so it goes.

Cary! Why must you do this? Marty Pasko chronicles the *Superman*-Lois-Lana relationship perfectly in *SUPERMAN*. But you? *No!* In *ACTION*, *Supes* and *Lois* rarely even talk to each other, and when they do, Lana referees. AARGH!

You write such great *Flash* stories. You are my fifth favorite writer (that's a compliment). You even wrote great *Amazo* and *Microwave Man* stories. So why, for the past months, have you continually bored us?

"The Metropolis-UFO Connection" was such a bore that I won't even comment on it. Listen to this tremendously exciting scene:

Baddie throws hero into TV set, then explains all (I). Hero hears, feels strange, but manages to use watch (I) to escape. Then he drops baddie on head, zooms off, and stops the evil plot by aliens to take over Earth.

The only good point of the story was Clark's return to the *Planet*. Finally. But still, please don't bring us another thrilling comic like this. I don't think either my nerves or my stomach could stand it.

Andy Mayer
2470 N. Chatsworth
St. Paul, MN 55113

For a guy who didn't comment on the story, you sure said plenty about it!—ENB

Dear Editor:

Inexplicably, *ACTION* #493 failed to appear on local newsstands until I had run all over town in a frenzy trying to locate the issue. When at last I got my greedy little hands on it, I felt the story had better be worth the Herculean effort, and fortunately, I was not let down. Maybe it was the complexity or excitement of the plot that so delighted me, but also I was practically doing cartwheels at the new developments in *Superman's* life.

The theme of the story was an old one—alien invaders scouting Earth for eventual conquest. But Cary Bates added a few new wrinkles—the yota pulsations, *Superman's* TV deathtrap, and the aliens' plot to make Earth a galactic garbage dump. I was glad to see Cary do away with Corliss as quickly as he was introduced. Too often, a new *Superman* villain escapes to return again and again.

I thought it ironic that an old story element like Jimmy's signal-watch provided the means of *Superman's* salvation. Seeing the old "Zee...Zee...Zee" flow across the page brought a nostalgic smile to my face, matched by other instances here. I loved seeing Lois and Jimmy enjoying themselves at mild-mannered Clark's expense, and delighted in the old "Don't call me chief" routine. All this nostalgia was the perfect set-up for an exciting conclusion—Clark's return to the *Daily Planet*. I've heard rumors this will be permanent, and it couldn't come at a better time than now, when the *Superman* movie promises to inaugurate a *Superman* revival. This is not to overlook the WGBS plotline of the past eight years. At the time, it seemed a perfect move into the '70's and out of the tired plots of the '60's. But now the *Planet* can profit by today's writers and story standards, which, in the wake of "Lou Grant" and "All the President's Men," should be able to make this storyline more mature and realistic. Besides, it'll be like returning Clark to his roots again. Now all you have to do is reconstruct the old *Planet* globe.

Tony Edwards
454 N. Formosa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

But would Morgan Edge stand for it on top of his penthouse?—ENB

This is agent 67-3X7½ with the latest pulsated yota across the nation. It is recommended that the mission in which Earth was to be used as a waste repository be abandoned permanently. The Earthlings have stolen our idea and beaten us to it.

Message intercepted and relayed by

Beverly Thon
2680 Linda St.
Saginaw, MI 48803

Have those aliens been scouting my office or my apartment?—E. Nelson Bridwell

THE OLD WEST'S WEIRDEST HERO... JONAH HEX ON SALE MONTHLY!

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SUPERMAN STARS IN BEST OF DC #11

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Don't miss the finest collection of Superman stories and features from the past 25 years when *THE BEST OF DC* #1, the first of DC's exciting new 100-Page Digest Comics, goes on sale the week of June 4th!



P-322



Q: Are you going to make any more DC-Marvel comic team-ups?—Joe Dawson.

A: There are negotiations in the works for more such projects. We'll let you know as soon as anything is finalized.

Q: What ever happened to *Batboy*?—Rodney Price. A: He went into retirement at an early age.

Q: What are *Snafu's* powers?—Art Young. A: *Man-Bat's* arch-foe creates an overwhelming disturbance of lights and sounds that unnerves everyone in the vicinity and sends them running off insanely.

Q: In what issue of *DOOM PATROL* did the original DP die?—Jeff Abbott. A: #121!

Q: When did the Earth-1 *Flash* first appear?—Steven Phillips. A: In *SHOWCASE* #4.

Q: In *SUPERBOY & THE LEGION* #238, *Invincible Kid* is alive and fighting, but in #229, he was dead. How come?—Sherri Sullivan. A: #238 was a reprint from the time before the *Kid* died.

Q: Any chance we'll see *Black Orchid* pop up somewhere?—Kut Baum. A: If one of our writers brings her back.

Q: Would you please tell me the main difference between the Earth-1 and Earth-2 *Supermen*?—Steven Simpson.

WEIRD WAR #79 FEATURES WEIRDEST WAR STORIES YET!

(DC, New York)—The latest issue of *WEIRD WAR TALES* features three of the strangest battle stories yet!

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A: The Earth-2 Man of Steel is older than his counterpart...and is married to Lois Lane.

Q: What does *Batman* carry in his utility belt?—David McClaran. A: A variety of gas pellets, antidotes, mini-weapons, and other devices to aid him in his battle against crime.

Q: Do you still publish *BLACKHAWK*?—Michelle White. A: No.

Q: When did *J'onn J'onzz* leave the *Justice League*?—Raymond Cannata. A: In *JLA* #71.

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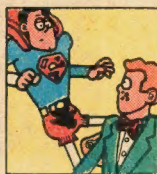
BATMAN #315—*Batman* battles an old foe, *Kite Man*, in "Danger on the Wing" by Len Wein, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin.

JONAH HEX #28—Jonah tracks a murderous Indian in "Night of the Savage" by Michael Fleisher and E.R. Cruz.

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #28—Carl Wessler and Teny Henson warn you to "Beware of 13"; Al Case and Lee Elias uncover an "Ice Cold Corpse"; and Tom DeFalco and Jess Jodloman suffer "Water, Water Every Fear"

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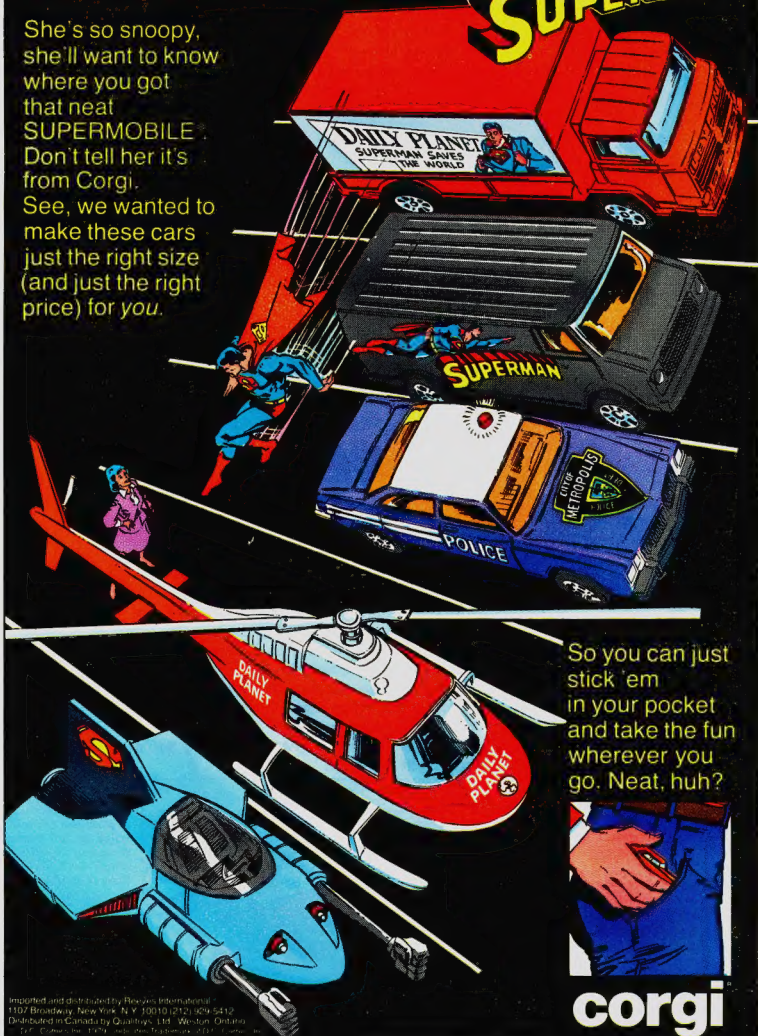
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